

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for notifying a user of a portable communication device, the method comprising:
determining a location of a first portable communication device of a first user;
determining a location of a second portable communication device of a second user;
determining whether the location of the second portable communication device is within a same region containing the first portable communication device;
and
notifying the first user of a presence of the second user if the location of the second portable communication device is within the same region containing the first portable communication device.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the first user and the second user are members of a group.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first portable communication device and the second portable communication device comprise a wireless communication device.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the wireless communication device comprises one of a mobile phone, a personal digital assistant and a two-way pager.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first portable communication device and the second portable communication device comprise a laptop computer.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein notifying comprises automatically sending a signal to the first portable device.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the determining the location of the first portable communication device comprises:

obtaining the location of the first portable communication device from a global positioning system (GPS) contained in the first portable communication device.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the determining the location of the second portable communication device comprises:

receiving information from a network, where the information in the network contains the location of the second portable communication device transmitted from the second portable communication device; and

identifying the location of the second user from the received information.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the network comprises at least one of an Internet and a wireless communications network.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the determining whether the first and second communication devices are in the same region is performed by the first communication device.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein the determining whether the first and second communication devices are in the same region is performed by the network.

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining a common meeting point for the first and second users;

notifying the first user of the common meeting point on the first portable communication device; and

notifying the second user of the common meeting point on the second portable communication device.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the determining the location of the second portable communication device and the notifying is repeated for all other members of a group containing the first user.

14. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining, if the location of the second portable communication device is outside the area containing the first portable communication device, whether the second portable communication device is about to approach the same area containing the first portable communication device; and

notifying the first user of the impending presence of the second user in the same area if the second portable communication device is about to approach the same area containing the first portable communication device.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the determining the location of the second portable communication device comprises:

determining a rate of travel and a direction of travel of the second portable communication device of the second user.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein the second portable communication device is within the same area as the first portable communication device if the location of the second portable communication device is less than a threshold distance from the location of the first portable communication device.

17. A portable communication device for notifying a user of the presence of another user, the portable communication device comprising:

a position detector for determining a location of the portable communication device;

a memory for storing a user alert program;

a network interface for receiving information from a network, wherein the information includes location information indicative of a location of another portable communication device of another user; and

a processor which, upon executing the group alert program, is configured to:

determine whether the location of the another portable communication device is within a same region as the retrieved location; and

if so, cause a notification message to be sent to the user of a presence of the another user if the location of the another portable communication device is within a same region as the portable communication device.

18. The portable communication device of claim 17 wherein the position detector comprises a global positioning system (GPS) device.

19. The portable communication device of claim 17 further comprising:
an input device for providing commands to the processor; and
an output device for displaying the retrieved location.

20. The portable communication device of claim 17 wherein the first user and the second user are members of a group.

21. The portable communication device of claim 17 wherein the network comprises at least one of an Internet and a wireless communications network.

22. The portable communication device of claim 17 wherein the retrieved location is transmitted to the network for processing by the another portable communication device.

23. The portable communication device of claim 17 wherein the another portable communication device is in the same region as the retrieved location if the another portable communication device is less than a threshold distance from the retrieved location.

24. A system for notifying a user of a portable communication device, the

system comprising:

a first portable communication device for determining a location of the first portable communication device of a first user;

a second communication device for determining a location of the second portable communication device of a second user and transmitting the determined location;

a network for receiving the transmitted location of the second portable communication device and configured for:

determining whether the location of the second portable communication device is within the same region as the first portable communication device; and

transmitting a notification to the first and second portable communication devices, if the second portable communication device is within the same region as the first portable communication device.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein at least one of the first and second portable communication devices comprises a wireless telephone.

26. The system of claim 24, wherein the network is configured for wireless communication.